GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:306
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2003
FUNCTIONING OF RURAL TELEPHONES
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephones installed in the rural areas of various States remain out of order quite often and it takes months to repair them;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the functioning of rural telephones; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT TO BE LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE LOK SABHA IN RESPECT OF PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STA QUESTION NO. 306 FOR 12TH MARCH, 2003 REGARDING FUNCTIONING OF RURAL TELEPHONES.

(a) Every effort is made to repair expeditiously faulty telephones in rural areas; however there are areas where due to reasons such as inadequate road infrastructure, law and order problems, erratic power supply, it occasionally becomes difficult to ensure prompt restoration.

(b) & (c): Following steps have been taken to streamline the functioning of rural telephones:-

(i) Monitoring of fault repair by senior officers.

(ii) Rehabilitation/upgradation of external plant.

(iii) Replacement of long spans of overhead alignment by underground cables in phased manner.

(iv) Daily testing of VPTs from telephone exchanges.

(v) Formation of core groups in each SSA for prompt restoration of VPTs.

(vi) Replacement of life expired telephone instruments in phased manner.

(vii) Introduction of modern technologies like Wireless in Local Loop, Time Division Multiple Access/Point to Multi Point (TDMA/PMP), Satellite in rural areas.

(viii) Provision of generator sets to take care of long duration power break down.

(d) The overall fault rate per 100 stations has come down from 13.8 during 2000- 2001 to 10.3 during 2002-2003 (upto December, 2002).